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**Acquisition**

**AIRCRAFT INFORMATION PROGRAMS**



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The Air Force must be capable of expediently determining the causes of mishaps, anticipating equipment failure and detecting faulty operational procedures that would result in mishaps. This directive establishes policy and defines responsibilities for implementing Aircraft Information Programs (AIPs) that cost effectively integrates all aircraft information needs. This policy applies to all U.S. Air Force aircraft systems, including those of the Air National Guard (ANG) and U.S. Air Force Reserve. See AFI 63-1401 and AFH 63-1402 for a detailed description of the processes and elements of this policy. Maintain and dispose of records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication in accordance with AFMAN 37-139, Records Disposition Schedule.

**1. Purpose of Policy.** Information must be gathered on-board aircraft to satisfy a variety of needs, such as new aircraft development, mishap investigations, system/subsystem integrity programs, Reliability Centered Maintenance (RCM), and Flight Operational Quality Assurance (FOQA), as well as other mission and training needs. A systemic approach to integrating all on-board information requirements is essential to ensure capture of critical information and optimization of benefit while minimizing overall cost. The Aircraft Information Program provides such an approach.

**2. Policy Statement.** The Air Force will establish an Aircraft Information Program (AIP) for each aircraft it is acquiring or operating. AIPs will evaluate and integrate all aircraft information needs, to include the collection, processing, storage and reporting of such information.

2.1. AIPs shall evaluate all investigative, logistical, operations, maintenance and training information needs associated with the aircraft.

2.2. AIPs shall evaluate existing infrastructure in determining the most cost effective means to accomplish this policy.

2.3. Air Force mishap investigative information gathering equipment shall be mission essential. Actual combat deployments will be the only exception to this policy.

2.4. The Air Force will perform periodic inspections of all information recording devices and their associated support equipment to verify quality and functionality.

2.5. All Air Force aircraft shall employ information recording systems. These systems will consist of those components determined necessary by the AIP in consideration of the operational usage, maintenance and system integrity concept of the weapon system.

2.5.1. Crash-survivable information for mishap investigation shall be the minimum allowable capability of an AIP.

2.5.2. The AIP shall ensure the aircraft mishap recording capability meets the minimum required capability as defined in AFH 63-1402.

**3. Responsibilities.** This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:

3.1. The Office of the Secretary of the Air Force and HQ USAF make policy, advocate resources, and oversee AIPs throughout the Air Force.

3.2. The Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition (SAF/AQ) will ensure acquisition policies and directives require AIPs.

3.3. Program Executive Officers (PEO) and Designated Acquisition Commanders (DAC) establish AIPs, identify requirements, and carry out their AIPs to comply with this directive.

3.4. Commanders in operating commands support systems that implement AIPs and the controls identified by AIP components.

3.5. Program managers shall ensure that an appropriate AIP is developed and documented for each aircraft the Air Force is acquiring or operating. They shall also monitor the execution of the AIP plan to ensure its effectiveness.

3.6. AFMC will support and evaluate the implementation of AIPs to include the training of support personnel and documentation of lessons learned and best practices.

3.7. The lead command for the aircraft will budget and fund program activities according to AFPD 10-9, *Lead Operating Command Weapon Systems Management*, and AFI 65-601, Volume 1, *Budget Guidance and Procedures*.

**4.** Waiver requests to this policy must be coordinated with AF/SE and AF/IL before submittal to AF/CV for consideration and disposition. The lead Command for each weapons system shall initiate waiver requests.

F. Whitten Peters  
Secretary of the Air Force

**Attachment 1**

**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

***References***

AFPD 10-9, *Lead Operating Command Weapon Systems Management*

AFI 65-601, *Budget Guidance and Procedures*

AFI 63-1401, *Aircraft Information Program*

AFH 63-1402, *Aircraft Information Program*

AFI 65-601, *Budget Guidance and Procedures*

***Abbreviations and Acronymns***

AFMCAir Force Material Command

AIPAircraft Information Program

ANGAir National Guard

DACDesignated Acquisition Commander

FOQAFlight Operational Quality Assurance

PEOProgram Executive Officer

RCMReliability Centered Maintenance